

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A position-detecting mechanism to detect ~~the position a~~ side of a subject of measurement, comprising:

a light-emitting means to emit a beam of visible light to the subject of measurement;
and

a regulating means to regulate the beam so that its cross section will be in a certain shape at the place of the subject of measurement, the cross sectional area of the beam at the place of the subject of measurement being such that the change of the shape of the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement is visible when the relative positions of the regulating means and the side of the subject of measurement have changed.

Claim 2 (original): The position-detecting mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the regulating means includes a marker-forming unit to show a marker indicating the position of the reference line of the position-detecting mechanism in the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement.

Claim 3 (original): The position-detecting mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the light-emitting means is a light-emitting diode.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A position-detecting sensor which comprises ~~(i)~~ a transmitting means to transmit a signal to a subject of measurement, ~~(ii)~~ a receiving means to receive the signal, and ~~(iii)~~ the position-detecting mechanism of claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ and detects the position of the subject of measurement based on the signal received by the receiving means.

Claim 5 (original): The position-detecting sensor according to claim 4, wherein the transmitting means serves concurrently as the position-detecting mechanism.

Claim 6 (new): The position-detecting sensor according to claim 4, wherein the

regulating means includes a marker-forming unit to show a marker indicating the position of the reference line of the position-detecting mechanism in the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement.

Claim 7 (new): The position-detecting sensor according to claim 4, wherein the light-emitting means is a light-emitting diode.

Claim 8 (new): The position-detecting sensor according to claim 6, wherein the transmitting means serves concurrently as the position-detecting mechanism.

Claim 9 (new): The position-detecting sensor according to claim 7, wherein the transmitting means serves concurrently as the position-detecting mechanism.